

Book Reviews

Anaphylaxis and Sensitization. R. Cranston Low, M.D., F.R.C.P. 384 pages, 16 coloured plates, 7 half-tone illustrations. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 1924.

Dr. Low's book has a wider scope than that indicated by the title. It soon becomes apparent, in studies of this nature, how closely linked are anaphylaxis and sensitization with a multitude of other subjects, and one therefore finds in this book, discussions on such conditions as urticaria, drug eruptions, the erythemata, and various skin infections. The book, in fact, is based on work carried out in the Skin Department of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and Dr. Low expresses the hope that it will be of assistance to the pathologist and bacteriologist, as well as the dermatologist. It is this catholic point of view which makes the book additionally attractive to the general practitioner.

It has not been attempted to describe actual skin eruptions, although there are some excellent plates of certain conditions; but the author deals rather with the method of production of these eruptions, and, as he points out, the study of the diseases of the skin is peculiarly dependent on a knowledge of sensitization. The literature on the subject is enormous in volume, but Dr. Low has compiled a bibliography which is a guide to all the important and most recent work.

One cannot withhold a note of commendation on the clearness of expression with which the book is written, the convenience of arrangement, and the general excellence of its production.

H. E. MACDERMOT

A Memoir of William and John Hunter. By George C. Peachey. Large 8vo, xi+313 pp. William Brendon and Son Ltd., Plymouth, 1924.

The author who has given us *The History of St. George's Hospital* found that his researches in records of that hospital and the illustrious members of its staff led him into much detail of the lives of William and John Hunter. He found he could not study the hospital without getting into intimate contact with the life of the great pathologist and naturalist with whose name it will always be associated. Through access to the family documents at Long Calderwood, the home of the Hunters, the author was able to examine, and transcribe at will much biographical material which has not previously been published. He has also been able to correct a number of mistakes as to dates, and other errors which crept into early biographies and which have been copied by late writers who have accepted them as authentic. By a careful study of original papers and records we have been given an intimate picture of the early life and professional attainments of these great men. His study of the early career of William Hunter revealed the lack of published knowledge of the teaching of anatomy before his time. By recounting the legal provisions for the supply of subjects for dissection some idea is gained of the difficulties which confronted the early teachers of anatomy. Early eighteenth century files of newspapers appear to have been searched for the announcements of anatomical demonstrations not published elsewhere. Some fifty pages are devoted to the early teaching of anatomy in London with biographical reference to the teachers when available. The detailed accounts to body snatching which are so well told in Bransby Cooper's *Life of Sir Astley Cooper* do not appear. This article deals rather with schools, men and regulations.

The Hunter family afford an interesting subject for the biographer. The mother "a woman of great worth and considerable talents"; the father "earnest, devout and endowed with plenty of worldly knowledge";

William, who never married, but acted as a parent and teacher to each of his brothers and to his nephew and heir, Matthew Baillie, to whom anatomy owes a debt in some measure comparable to that owed by pathology to John; John, who became the greatest pathologist of his own or perhaps all time and whose unrivalled collection was purchased by the nation; James, who was first educated as a lawyer and whose death in early manhood alone prevented his attaining in medicine a distinction as great as his brothers in anatomy and pathology; the nephew Matthew Baillie whose *Morbid Anatomy* was the first attempt to treat pathology as a special subject; the niece Joanna Baillie whose plays and poems have found a place in English literature. With so much tempting material about him the author has restricted himself to the two illustrious brothers and has given us a memoir which stands as the best which has appeared. Compiled as it is from original sources, all of which have been carefully reviewed there would appear to be little that is of importance for future biographers to discover and record.

J. H. ELLIOTT

The Medical Annual. \$5.00. John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol, England, 1925.

The Medical Annual of 1925 has as its contributors prominent leaders of the profession in its various branches. Men like Hey Groves, Ramsay Hunt, Leonard Rogers, Lockhart-Mummery, Rolleston, Adson and E. Wyllys Andrews, to mention a few of the writers in this issue; and these bespeak not only authority in their special tasks but also the international character of this valuable book.

If you pick out various subjects here and there that have your particular interest, you will find a most concise but readable résumé of the recent work on those subjects. And there is, in addition, a most useful bibliography to fall back on if one wishes to consult original articles. Subjects like The Sympathetic Nervous System, Lung Abscess, Encephalitis, Tetany, Asthma, Ventriculography, Radium application versus Hysterectomy, etc., which have been well in the forefront of medical attention during the last year or so, are ably and clearly presented. In blood transfusion not only the technique and anaphylaxis but the effect that repeated transfusions have on the donors is presented. In Osteitis Fibrosa the very valuable contribution of Dawson and Struthers is outlined and the relationship of this disease to pathology of the parathyroid gland with consequent abnormal calcium metabolism is shown.

The general practitioner will find the subject of blood pressure of particular interest. Here the recent work of Stocks is given. Stocks' observations were made on individuals between the ages of five and forty with the idea of finding the normal range of systolic, diastolic and pulse pressure.

Many special subjects are covered in this work. Eye, ear, nose, skin, etc., and also a list of new pharmaceutical products and new medical and surgical instruments and appliances are given.

The great usefulness of this work is shown by the fact that one medical librarian said that it was probably the most frequently used book in his library.

W. D. KEITH

The Cerebro-Spinal Fluid in Clinical Diagnosis. By J. Godwin Greenfield, M.D., and E. Arnold Carmichael, M.B. 8vo. xii+272 pp. Price 12/-. Macmillan and Company. London, 1925.

This is an attempt to collect in a small volume all that is definitely known about the nature of cere-

bro-spinal fluid and of its variations in disease. As a summary of our knowledge it forms a desirable volume for the neurologist, the pathologist and the laboratory worker. It deals not only with the fluid obtained by spinal puncture but with that drawn off from the cisterna magna and the lateral ventricles of the brain. Many of the observations made are based upon the records of examinations at the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic. The book is arranged in three parts. The first deals with the nature and composition of the spinal fluid in health and disease, the second with its characteristics in certain special diseases, while the third part treats of the technique of examination of the fluid. The anatomy of the spaces in which the fluid is found together with the physiology of its secretion, absorption and circulation are considered in the early part of the work.

J. H. ELLIOTT

Pathology. General and Special. J. Martin Beattie, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. and W. E. Carnegie Dickson, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P. 1103 pages, 499 illustrations and 17 coloured plates. Third edition. Price 42/ net. Wm. Heinemann Ltd., 20 Bedford St., London, W.C.2, 1925.

This work is divided into the two great divisions—general and special—each requiring about one half of the volume.

The general pathology is taken up in a sensible, logical manner, and one is gradually led up to the fundamental phase of inflammation. Inflammation is considered very comprehensively and yet is not laborious to the reader. Tumours are concisely and intelligently reviewed. The portion on "Animal Parasites" is rather extensive. Immunity is carefully considered, while anaphylaxis is only casually mentioned.

The special pathology occupies the latter half of the volume and that portion on "Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs" is particularly interesting. The pathology of the nervous system is well written and fairly comprehensive.

The book is well printed on good paper, well bound and indexed conveniently; in all, a very interesting and valuable addition to one's library.

R. B. MALCOLM

Health and Environment. By Leonard Hill, M.B., F.R.S., Director Department of Applied Physiology, National Institute of Medical Research and Argyll Campbell, M.D., D.Sc., Member of Research Staff, National Institute for Medical Research. Cloth, 201 Pages, 7 plates, 20 charts and diagrams. Price 12/6 net. Edward Arnold & Co., London, 1925.

The authors of this volume have secured their material from reports of the Medical Research Council embodied in series Nos. 32, 52 and 73; these deal with "The science of ventilation and open air treatment" and "The kata-thermometer in studies of body heat and efficiency." The purpose is to present to the educated public the substance of these valuable reports in a more concise and simple form and to bring before the people some of the conditions that are apparently opposing improvement of the nation's health.

Many of the environmental conditions that influence health are dealt with and presented in commendable form. Much stress is laid on impurities of the atmosphere and ventilation and heating. One chapter deals fully with the kata-thermometer and explains clearly the function of this instrument in ventilation by measuring the cooling and evaporative powers of the atmosphere which depend upon air movements.

The volume cannot be considered a textbook but it will convey to the interested public an outline of the problems of sanitation which confront us and which have such an important bearing on national health.

F. W. LUNNEY

Chronic Disease. A Working Hypothesis. Edward Bach, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. and C. E. Wheeler, M.D., B.S., B.Sc. VIII+153 pages. Price 7/6 net. H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., London, 1925.

This book is an attempt to establish on bacteriological and clinical bases the following thesis: "The ordinary diet of civilized life predisposes to chronic bacterial infections of the intestinal tract. These infections vary in their virulence, but the essential factor which makes them dangerous is their chronicity. Single doses of their toxins by tests on animals may appear but slightly virulent, if at all, but the cumulative effect of them, absorbed day in and day out, year after year, is a potent cause of many varieties of chronic disease." The authors believe that our ordinary diet is entirely wrong and that the proper dietary should be of "food as largely as possible uncooked" and proceed to show how a diet so constituted alters the appearance of the faeces and their bacteriological constituents. However, it is frankly admitted that such a dietary seldom, if ever, succeeds in freeing the intestinal tract of the bacteria that they believe are causative of "many varieties of chronic disease." To control these, vaccines are required in addition and an explanation is given of the methods of examination and culture needed to secure the mother cultures for these and prepare vaccines. A chapter is then devoted to the clinical results and a summary given of the application of their methods in 500 cases (under twenty-nine disease headings.)

The book is a rather interesting one, especially to those who have to deal with chronic gastro-intestinal diseases, but the evidence presented to maintain the thesis seems to the reviewer to be slim indeed, in fact not sufficient even to justify the verdict of "not proven".

W. T. CONNELL

Statistical Methods For Research Workers. By R. A. Fisher, M.A. 239 pages, with charts. Price 15/ net. Oliver and Boyd, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh, 1925.

Research students in all departments of science recognize that many problems arise, the solution of which cannot be regarded as satisfactory without a statistical consideration of the numerical data. Tacit appreciation of this fact is shown by the repetition of experiments. To those with limited mathematical training, attempts at solution of problems by reference to standard works on statistics only strengthen the prevalent idea of their prohibitive nature. One of the reasons is that simple principles are usually clouded with rigid arguments from which they are deduced. The general impression left is that the subject of statistics is hermetically sealed under forbidding terms and equations.

Statistical methods will only be made use of by the majority of workers directly proportional to the simplicity with which this science is presented. The author of "Statistical Methods for Research Workers" appreciates this. He has selected the salient principles and has systematically constructed in small space a work which makes it easy for the reader to get a clear conception of the methods of applying statistical tests to numerical data.

The chapter on time, correlation and frequency diagrams is brief and to the point. It gives the reader the kernel of the subject. The chapters on distributions and on means are clear and good. They show the simplicity with which it is possible to present this branch of the subject. Of particular value are the examples chosen to clarify the different processes. By presenting the subject in such a manner one can more readily ascertain the application of any process to any particular problem.

The book is meant to be read methodically as a connected treatise. Should one, however, wish to use it as a laboratory reference, it is necessary, as the